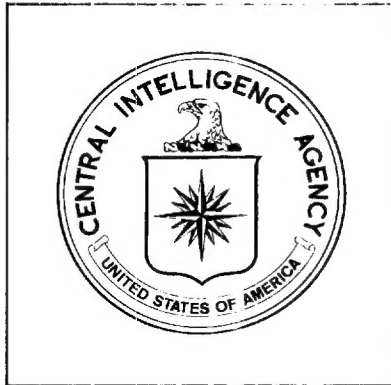


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## STAFF NOTES:

# Middle East Africa South Asia

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**MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA**

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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### Mozambique

#### *After Four Months of Independence*

In a recent general assessment of Mozambique four months after it became independent, the US consulate in Lourenco Marques concludes that the regime, controlled by the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique, has shown an impressive ability to organize and clamp down on the population. In nearly every school, firm, market, or other institution, party militants play a key role. Military and paramilitary forces have been expanded and a new security police force with virtually unchecked powers to arrest, detain, and confiscate has been established.

The government has jailed or exiled opponents of the "revolutionary process," usually without charges; some have been held for months without knowing if or when their cases will come to trial. Under a new law a crime is virtually anything the security police say is illegal.

The regime is lashing out at religious groups. Some religious leaders have been jailed and many missionaries have fled. The anti-religion campaign is having an impact; some Catholic churches have reported a 70 percent drop in attendance.

A major propaganda campaign is an important part of the government's effort to mobilize and indoctrinate the country. The main vehicle is the simple bulletin board with messages praising President Samora Machel and the ruling Front. The messages tell people just how bad they had it under colonialism and warn the populace to be vigilant against "unseen forces" backed by imperialism and capitalism.

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Despite government claims of wanting to build an "anti-racist" society, the regime's nationalization measures since independence have spurred the exodus of whites from the country. There are only an estimated 80,000 whites remaining out of a pre-independence white population of 200,000, the vast majority have opted for Portuguese rather than Mozambican citizenship.

There is no significant organized resistance to the regime, but a declining economy has caused some dissatisfaction and triggered a riot last month in the port city of Beira. Rapid inflation, a liquidity and credit crisis, a shortage of foreign exchange, and increasing government intervention in the economy have contributed to the decline. The continuing flight of technicians has also been a problem.

The departure of white farmers has led to some food shortages in the cities. Unemployment in urban areas has led the government to launch a campaign to return people to the countryside, where they will be involved in building communal villages. These villages are being touted as the instrument to end all of Mozambique's problems.

#### Foreign Relations

Mozambique has particularly close ties with Tanzania and Zambia, and strongly supports the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

China is ahead of the USSR in their competition in Mozambique. Machel has indicated that relations between Mozambique and Portugal will depend on the nature of the government in Lisbon, but considerable trade is still going on between the two countries and Mozambique is actively recruiting doctors and technicians in Portugal.

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Despite Mozambique's tough public stand against the white minority regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa, it has quietly adopted a business-as-usual approach toward Salisbury and Pretoria. Officials from both countries are operating discreetly in Lourenco Marques. Rhodesian and South African goods continue to be exported from Mozambique's ports, and more Mozambican workers than ever before are signing up to work in South African mines.

The US is attacked daily in Mozambique's propaganda as the number one threat to the revolution. Virtually all news about America is slanted to exaggerate the negative. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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India

*Court Cases Continue*

The Indian Supreme Court has still not issued its verdict on the legality of a recently enacted constitutional amendment that would, among other things, clear Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of a lower court conviction for campaign violations in 1971. The court also continues to deliberate on whether parliament acted within constitutional limits when it amended India's electoral laws during a brief legislative session last August.

The possibility has now arisen that the justices may avoid ruling on either matter by simply overturning a 1973 Supreme Court decision which held that parliament cannot amend the "basic structure" of the constitution. Last month, the court announced it had decided to review the 1973 decision in connection with pending cases unrelated to Gandhi's case or the issues that arose last summer. A reversal of the 1973 decision would provide the court a face-saving way to automatically terminate Gandhi's court cases.

The composition of the court today increases prospects for a reversal of the earlier ruling. It was decided by a 7-6 vote and only one of the justices who voted for the restriction remains on the bench. He and four of the justices who voted against the decision form a panel that is currently reviewing Gandhi's cases.

A favorable ruling for Gandhi, whether on purely legal or political grounds, would remove one of the few remaining hurdles she faces as she moves to consolidate her power. It is widely anticipated in India that she plans eventually to curtail the powers of the judiciary in favor of parliament, which is controlled by her Congress Party. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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